

Australian Ambassador Arthur Sinodinos. On March 18, 2023, Mr. Sinodinos is to step down as Australian Ambassador to the United States after more than three years of service in this role. He has been an extraordinary public servant who has strengthened the bridge between the United States and our Indo-Pacific ally through 2 U.S. administrations and a global pandemic.

Mr. Sinodinos history in public service extends far beyond his time as Australian Ambassador. Upon his graduation from the University of New Castle in 1979, he immediately picked up work in the federal civil service of the Albanese government, transitioning between rising roles in both the Department of Finance and Treasury. Throughout these years, Mr. Sinodinos had proven his skill in both policy and process, and he ultimately joined the Howard Administration as Chief of Staff upon Prime Minister John Howard's election in 1996. Notably, Mr. Sinodinos worked as the senior advisor to the leader of Australia's Liberal Party near through to the conclusion of Prime Minister Howard's tenure, leaving the government in 2006.

After a brief stint in the private sector, Mr. Sinodinos joined the Australian Senate in 2011, representing his home state of New South Wales. He earned reelection to the Senate in 2013, and worked in several cabinet positions throughout this tenure of public service including Minister of Industry, Innovation and Science. Though he was one of the stronger voices in the Liberal Party, Mr. Sinodinos maintained a respected reputation across both sides of the aisle until his time in the Senate ended in 2019.

That brings us to 2020, Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Sinodinos was appointed to the position of Australian Ambassador. With more than 4 decades of experience advancing the interests of the Australian people, a more suitable person could not have been chosen to strengthen the already immense partnership formed between our 2 democratic nations.

As co-chair of the Friends of Australia Caucus, Chairman and more recently Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ambassador Sinodinos on a number of bilateral priorities, including leading a bipartisan group of members to advocate for closer digital trade partnerships between the United States and Australia.

Our degree of coordination exploded into a new era in 2021, with the joint announcement of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) alliance, geared toward ensuring security and the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region. Upon the formation of this alliance, here in Congress we also established the bipartisan AUKUS Working Group to highlight legislative opportunities that will prioritize the efficacy of the alignment. Ambassador Sinodinos has been a tenacious advocate throughout each of our endeavors together, and was tremendous in supporting our legislative priorities on AUKUS including the first ever legislative action to allow Australian submariners to attend Nuclear Power School in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Sinodinos' presence in the United States has been a testament to the unique bond between our nation and Australia. It will be absolutely critical that those who follow in his footsteps engage with

the same degree of sincerity and hard work. As Mr. Sinodinos, his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children embark on the next chapter of their lives, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking them for their long line of service.

HONORING KEENAN DARNELL ANDERSON, A LIFE LOST TOO SOON

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Keenan Darnell Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a father, a life partner to his fiancée, a teacher, and a proud Angeleno. Mr. Anderson was taken from us earlier this year by the brutality and violence of the LAPD. Today, we stand here to honor Mr. Anderson's life, legacy, and contributions to his family and his city.

Mr. Anderson grew up in Los Angeles and from a young age, demonstrated his commitment to his family across Southern California. He was known as the "life of the party," always livening up family cookouts and picnics. Mr. Anderson was a linchpin of his close-knit family. From the time that he was young, Mr. Anderson knew he wanted to dedicate his life to helping others. In college, he focused this dedication on a career in law enforcement, double majoring in criminal justice and sociology. Later, he translated this desire to do good for the world into educating, earning a graduate degree in education.

Mr. Anderson's passion for teaching led him to dedicate his career to educating his community's youth. As a teacher, he taught English to juniors and seniors in high school and even chaired the English department. Mr. Anderson was also invested in the creativity of his students, teaching drama classes that served as an introduction to the arts to many Angeleno youth. He was also a charismatic member of his church where he led family game nights and injected his infectious energy and enthusiasm.

At the time of his untimely death, Mr. Anderson had just moved to Washington, D.C. to teach at Digital Pioneers Academy. Washington, D.C. will forever miss out on the contributions, energy, and inspiration he could have brought to the young people here.

Washington, D.C. students are not the only ones that will forever miss Mr. Anderson. He is survived by his fiancée, Domonique, to whom he was deeply devoted, and his 5 year-old son, Syncere. Mr. Anderson doted on his son, proud to be a father and proud to have his son by side. Mr. Anderson's wrongful murder robbed Syncere of years with his father. On February 7, 2023, Domonique joined me as my guest at the State of the Union, where we continued to highlight the unjust and tragic death of this doting and dedicated father, partner, friend, educator, and member of my community.

Today, we should be celebrating Mr. Anderson's great achievements as a father and a teacher, and the strength and resilience he imbued in his communities. Instead, we must confront the tragedy of his murder at the hands of the LAPD.

Mr. Speaker, this commemoration of the life of Keenan Anderson, a life gone too soon,

adds yet another name to America's tainted legacy of violence against the Black community at the hands of individuals charged with protecting and serving. I honor the memory of Mr. Anderson and commit to working to eliminate the inhumane violence and brutality that took him from us too soon.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING DR. ANTONIA PANTOJA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on International's Women Day to honor and celebrate in memoriam Dr. Antonia Pantoja, a Puerto Rican educator, social worker, organizer, prolific author, and resilient social justice activist. Her contributions to the Puerto Rican community and American society are immeasurable.

From a humble upbringing on the outskirts of San Juan, Barrio Obrero, Puerto Rico—Dr. Pantoja emerged as one of the most vocal and passionate advocates for the Puerto Rican Diaspora, inspiring and guiding emerging leaders in New York City since the 1960's. Believing that education and cultural pride were crucial to healing and lifting the community out of poverty, she committed her life to the difficult and necessary awakening of public consciousness. She was a key figure in the fight to resolve the educational and social injustices plaguing the Puerto Rican community in New York. Her contributions were many and include the establishment of bilingual and culturally relevant education in New York and across the U.S.

Despite growing up impoverished, she was a determined student and grateful for the opportunity to pursue her education. She received a teaching certificate from the University of Puerto Rico in 1942.

In 1944, at the age of 22, she emigrated to New York City to further her education. She landed her first job as a wartime welder where she quickly helped form a union that negotiated better work conditions for employees. The seeds of grass-roots activism, that she learned from her grandfather, a union organizer for a tobacco company, would become part of the basic tools for her future work.

Antonia graduated from Hunter College (1952) with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. She went on to earn a Master's Degree from Columbia University School of Social Work (1954) and her Ph.D. from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio (1973).

Early organizing work led to the founding of the Hispanic American Youth Association (HAYA) in 1957 to address the unmet education, healthcare, and employment needs of her community. Shortly thereafter, the organization was renamed the Puerto Rican Association of Community Affairs (PRACA) to address the unique plight of the Puerto Rican Diaspora.

In 1961, Dr. Antonia Pantoja and a group of Puerto Rican educators and professionals created ASPIRA to address the exceedingly high drop-out rate and low educational attainment of Puerto Rican youth. Sparked by the high dropout rates and low educational attainment of Puerto Rican children, Dr. Pantoja worked

with ASPIRA of New York to sue the NYC Board of Education (1974). They were successful, and the resulting consent decree is considered a major landmark in the establishment of bilingual education in the United States.

Dr. Pantoja helped establish some of the most influential stateside organizations of the time including the National Puerto Rican Forum (1957), ASPIRA (1961), Universidad Boricua, the precursor of Boricua College (1970), and the Graduate School for Community Development (1978) in San Diego. In addition, she established Producir (1984) and Provienda (1985) in Puerto Rico. The Graduate School for Community Development incorporated her more comprehensive and well formulated understanding of community development and the need to include economic development, art and culture in the development of community. Utilizing these experiences, she then, with her partner, Dr. Wilhelmina Perry, worked with local residents to develop an organization that had a strong economic component to foster local businesses among the women and the farmers. This organization was formed in a rural mountain town in Canovanas, Puerto Rico. Provienda, a second corporation emanating from Producir, further focused these ideas on low-income housing in Puerto Rico.

Since its formation over 62 years ago, ASPIRA has grown from a small nonprofit agency in New York City to a national association with statewide Associate organizations in Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South, North Carolina, and the ASPIRA Association Office in Washington, D.C. as well as in Puerto Rico.

ASPIRA continues to build on Dr. Pantoja's legacy of leadership development and movement building providing extensive cradle-to-career resources for Latina/o youth in communities across the United States. In 1996, she was recognized with the Nation's highest civilian honor by President Clinton when she became the first Puerto Rican woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja died of cancer in New York City on May 24, 2002. She was survived by her longtime partner, Dr. Wilhelmina Perry. May we celebrate the countless lives she touched and the myriad ways she helped improve New York.

RECOGNIZING THE VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia Wesleyan University Women's Soccer Team on their incredible season.

This year, the team finished fourth in the NCAA Division 3 National Tournament. This was the Marlins' second trip to the Final Four in school history and the first trip since 2006. With an overall record of 18 wins, three losses, and four ties, the Virginia Wesleyan Women's Soccer Team was the only unranked team to make the tournament this season.

Featuring three All-Region players, two NCAA All-Tournament players, and one Third Team All American player, the Marlins earned their spot in the Final Four with a combination of impressive talent and unrelenting hard work. The Marlins left it all out on the field and should be proud of their accomplishment. As a female athlete myself, I congratulate them on their amazing season and wish them all the best moving forward.

Again, congratulations to all the Virginia Wesleyan University Women's Soccer Team players, coaches, and fans on a historic and impressive season. Go Marlins.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE FRANK LOBIONDO COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018 TO DIRECT THE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DATA RELATED TO WATER QUALITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to make available to state regulators information pertaining to ballast water management systems with a "Type Approval Certificate" issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. I would like to thank the California State Lands Commission for their meaningful contributions and collaboration on this shared priority.

Routine access to this information is critical to California's Marine Invasive Species Program, administered by the California State Lands Commission. It would also enable California and other states to assess the performance of U.S. Coast Guard-approved ballast water management systems. The nonproprietary information yielded from this assessment will inform policy recommendations to reduce the risk of the introduction or proliferation of invasive or nuisance species in state waters.

Federal law requires vessels to use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved ballast water management system to meet ballast water discharge standards. The U.S. Coast Guard collects important data on the efficacy of ballast water management systems to meet federal discharge standards as part of their type approval process. These data represent the most current and thorough data on the performance of these ballast water management technologies.

In 2018, Congress passed the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), requiring the U.S. EPA to create uniform national performance standards for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including ballast water. Once implemented, VIDA regulations preempt States' authority to enact more stringent standards for ballast water and other vessel discharges. However, states are authorized under that same 2018 federal law to inspect vessels and enforce the federal ballast water management requirements. States were also given explicit authority to petition the U.S. EPA and U.S. Coast Guard to adopt stricter standards if available data supports doing so.

VIDA also authorizes states to sample ballast water from arriving vessels to obtain information relevant to any future petition.

However, the California State Lands Commission and similar state regulators cannot perform this work—carrying out their legal responsibilities for state waterways—without ready access from the U.S. Coast Guard to information and datasets on the water quality characteristics and biological organism concentrations from post-treatment water discharged from ballast water management systems. To date, the State of California has been denied access to this critical public information from the U.S. Coast Guard despite filing a formal request and subsequent appeal under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

This legislation would fix this problem and require the U.S. Coast Guard to provide ballast water management system data, including information about the biological efficacy of approved systems, to states upon request. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF PATRICK EIDING

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman BRENDAN BOYLE of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District and Congressman DWIGHT EVANS of Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, rise today to celebrate the retirement of Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO President, Patrick Eiding.

Over the course 21 years, Patrick Eiding has served the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO to the best of his ability. First elected in January 2002, Patrick served a total of 5 full terms as the organization's President of the Council.

Prior to his tenure leading the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, Patrick Eiding served for over 25 years as the Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the Insulators and Asbestos Workers Local 14 where he oversaw both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey.

Throughout his career, Patrick Eiding successfully moved up through the leadership structure within the organization. Beyond his service to the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO, Eiding serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Philadelphia Building Trades Council; a member of the Executive Council of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO; and sits on the General Board of the National AFL-CIO where he represents the Central Labor Councils located in the northeast region of the United States.

He has been a strong advocate for the interest and concerns of working-class families while serving as a member of the union, board, and commissions for several organizations. Some of which include the Philadelphia Area Labor Management Committee, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and several more.

Today, Patrick Eiding continues to serve as the newly appointed member of the Philadelphia Works Incorporated and actively participates as a commissioner on the city planning commission of Philadelphia.